

## A Secret Safe Place for Newborns of Tennessee

Imagine a helpless newborn baby wrapped in a pillowcase and stuffed under a dorm room bed. Another baby is thrown into a dumpster on a sweltering, summer day and left to die.

Elsewhere, a newborn is bundled in a towel and handed to a fire fighter at a fire station or given to a nurse at a hospital emergency room.

In all of these scenarios, the mothers were scared and panicked. They had hidden their pregnancies and didn't know what to do. However, the mother who took her baby to the fire station knew about the Tennessee Safe Haven Law. She chose to safely surrender her baby to a designated facility.

Tennessee's Safe Haven Law provides a safe and legal alternative to a woman who might otherwise abandon her newborn. The law allows a mother to anonymously surrender her unharmed newborn of 3 days old or less to staff at any hospital, birthing center, community health clinic (health department), walk-in clinic, EMS facility, or 24-hour staffed fire or police station in Tennessee. She is not required to answer any questions or give any information.

A Secret Safe Place for Newborns of Tennessee is a statewide organization dedicated to preventing newborn abandonment by raising awareness of the Safe Haven Law. We educate women with a 24-hour confidential Helpline (1-866-699-SAFE), printed materials, social media, a website ([www.secretsafeplacetn.org](http://www.secretsafeplacetn.org)), school and community education programs, and many forms of advertising. We also provide training and resources for safe haven facilities.

More than 75 newborns have been safely surrendered in Tennessee under the safe haven law. Please help us continue to keep babies safe.

To learn more, please go to [www.secretsafeplacetn.org](http://www.secretsafeplacetn.org) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdg5UHW60RA>.

Anyone in crisis can call **1-866-699-SAFE**.

